

Sextant Observations of Comet Pons-Brooks made at Monte Video.
By the Rev. S. S. O. Morris.

(Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.)

20th January, 1884.

H.M.S. "Amethyst" at Maldonado at 9^h 30^m P.M. $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Lat. } 34^{\circ} 57' 0'' \text{ S.} \\ \text{Long. } 54^{\circ} 57' 30'' \text{ W.} \end{array} \right.$

Distance between Comet and <i>Aldebaran</i>	...	...	75	29	30
"	"	<i>Sirius</i>	...	...	99 10 30
"	"	<i>Fomalhaut</i>	...	...	22 14 30

Resulting position of Comet at 9^h 30^m P.M. $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{R.A. } 23^{\text{h}} 46^{\text{m}} 6^{\text{s}} \\ \text{Dec. } 12^{\circ} 0' 8'' \text{ S.} \end{array} \right.$

21st January, 1884, 8^h 56^m P.M.

Distance between Comet and <i>Aldebaran</i>	...	...	75	1	0
"	"	<i>Sirius</i>	...	...	97 36 0
Position at time of observation	...	...	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Lat. } 34^{\circ} 57' 0'' \text{ S.} \\ \text{Long. } 56^{\circ} 3' 0'' \text{ W.} \end{array} \right.$		

The New Comet of 1884, January 12. By Norman R. Pogson,
Government Astronomer at Madras.

A telegram from Kiel Observatory, received on January 16, gave notice of the discovery of a small comet on the 12th, too far south to be observable in Europe, but did not state where or by whom it was found. Circumstances prevented me from looking for the comet until the 21st, when it was speedily recognised. It was round, with a decided condensation towards the centre, and about 90'' in diameter.

Of the following observations, that on January 22 was taken with the eight-inch equatoreal by Troughton & Simms, the six-inch by Lerebours & Secretan being employed for the rest, and a reticle being used in preference to any other form of micrometer available. Moonlight rendered further observations impossible. Corrections for refraction have been duly applied, and all the star positions are from Mr. Stone's Cape Catalogue:—

March 1884.

Mr. Hall, the Light of Neptune.

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	Madras Mean Time.			Apparent Place. R.A. P.D.			Parallax Factors. R.A. P.D.		Comparisons.
	h	m	s	h	m	s			
Jan. 22	7	25	10	23	10	20.63	131° 57' 40".9	+9.8455 -0.5925	5 with 12080
23	7	37	46	23	14	50.88	131 59 13.6	+9.8556 -0.5602	{ 1 each with 12062 12080 and 12105
25	7	31	31	23	23	2.98	131 59 6.9	+9.8504 -0.5779	2 with 12123
26	7	27	28	23	26	50.92	131 58 6.6	+9.8469 -0.5884	1 each with 12105 and 12123
26	7	31	35	23	26	52.47	131 58 31.8	+9.8505 -0.5777	2 each with 12222 and 12226
28	7	14	35	23	33	52.49	131 55 46.7	+9.8355 -0.6178	5 each with 12222 and 12226
30	7	14	24	23	40	20.30	131 51 22.0	+9.8362 -0.6145	10 with 12277
31	7	9	59	23	43	18.29	131 49 15.7	+9.8328 -0.6218	3 with 12277

Madras Observatory :
1884, Feb. 7.

Variation in the Light of Neptune, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 14, 1883.
By Maxwell Hall.

Neptune is favourably situated for observation at present, and the telescope was directed to the planet on Nov. 27 in order to detect, if possible, any trace of colour; there were three small stars in the field of view, *Neptune*, and two stars between the eighth and ninth magnitude which we shall call *a* and *b*. Their configuration was noticed in order to identify the planet next night by its motion. On Nov. 28 the stars were observed again, when it was noticed that the brighter and following star had moved so little that its identity with the planet was considered unsatisfactory, and an accurate measure was taken. Repeating the measure on Nov. 29 the identity of the planet was clearly proved; and the delicate bluish colour observed the two previous nights duly confirmed.

This gives us the following remarkable sequence of colour of the planets, proceeding from the Earth outwards:—*Mars*, reddish; *Jupiter*, a delicate orange; *Saturn*, greenish yellow; *Uranus*, light green; and *Neptune*, slightly blue. *Uranus* is seen tinged with green in this telescope; and so indeed I saw it in the magnificent refractor of the United States Naval Observatory. When in Washington early in April 1880, Professor Asaph Hall courteously asked me to the Observatory one night, and showed me *Uranus*: the greenish hue attracted my attention at once, and the satellites *Titania* and *Oberon* appeared to be as conspicuous in that telescope as *Jupiter's* satellites are in my

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